



CALPEEK

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THE POLITICS OF THE NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE..

Editor's note: The Jan. 17th Northridge Earthquake has left death & destruction in L.A. County, along with an estimated cost that could run higher than \$20 billion. Here is CALPEEK's analysis of the political situation...

...The political spotlight is pointed directly at President Bill Clinton and CA Gov. Pete Wilson. For both, this latest disaster is *not good news*. If the U.S. economy is to recover completely, Calif. must begin to rebound. And there were some signs this might be happening. But now all bets are off...

...Yet Pres. Clinton's trip to the San Fernando Valley in L.A. on Jan. 19th to see for himself what a 6.6 quake can do was more than just a pep talk or photo op. CA is a critical State that Pres. Clinton must hold in 1996 if he is to be reelected. So it was absolutely necessary that he make the trip to assure the public that Federal assistance was up and running and that his administration would do everything it could to help the State recover. By all accounts, the Feds have responded well to the immediate crisis, but the next few days will be critical and Pres. Clinton know this. In case you missed it, The President came here with nearly \$300 million in immediate federal aid. A promising start...

...As for Wilson, L.A. Times political reporter Bill Stall correctly pointed out in his Jan. 19th story that Wilson has seen it all --- including drought, a bloody urban riot, two massive wildfires and now a huge earthquake. It's no wonder some want to start calling him "**Calamity Pete**." Wilson knows that he might get away with talking about *crime & illegal immigrants* in the short term, but long term his 1994 reelection will depend upon the State's ability to create jobs and rebuild the economy. Wilson believed the State was recovering, when the bottom fell out...

...Where will Gov. Wilson find the funds? The Feds are expected to provide about 70-75% of the rebuilding funds, but that still means Calif. taxpayers will have to come with 25-30%. It's an *election year* and Wilson's very touchy when it comes to the "T" word. Yet after the 1989 San Francisco Bay area earthquake, the Legislature and then Gov. George Deukmejian agreed to impose a 1/4 cent sales tax for 1 year. It raised just under \$800 million, with the funds going to reconstruct freeways, bridges and public facilities damaged in the quake...

...As of deadline time, sources say there have been several proposals put forward to deal with the funding problem. State Sen. Tom Hayden(D-Santa Monica) has proposed a 1/4 cent sales tax for 23 months, with a start date of Feb. 1st. This plan would raise about \$1.4 billion. State Sen. David Roberti(D-Van Nuys), who represents a good chunk of the damaged area, has proposed a \$500 million home bond act for the June 1994 ballot. And State Sen. Quentin Kopp(I-S.F.) wants to raise the gas tax by 2-5 cents. Each cent raises about \$130 million. All of these plans plus more may be needed because the Northridge quake damage was much more extensive than the 1989 earthquake...

...But the big political question about all of this is whether the Republicans in the Legislature will go along with these kinds of proposals. They hate raising taxes, especially in an election year. The same may hold for Gov. Wilson, who has been pounded by the GOP's right wing over his 1991 tax hikes. We'll have to wait to see what happens...

...FYI: The earthquake has done two things: it has knocked all the BS about Michael Jackson and Toynya Harding off L.A.'s tabloid-oriented local TV news and it has pushed CRIME onto the back burner as 1994's

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hot political issue. This probably helps Demo State Treasurer Kathleen Brown and Insurance Comm. John Garamendi, who are both stronger on jobs & the economy. As for Gov. Wilson's Crime Summit, its been postponed...

...**P.S.** Conservative Bruce Herschensohn who ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate in 1992, is back on KABC Radio with a daily a.m. commentary. His commentary of Jan. 19th was a shocker. He defended "price gouging" during an emergency, saying supply & demand should determine the price. You can bet your first born that op researchers will get a transcript of this commentary. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's ETCETERA: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

- **Jerry Brown's Talk Radio Show** - In case you missed the news, former CA Gov. Jerry Brown starts his own radio talk show next week, Jan. 31st. Brown will be on the Talk America Radio Network, with about 50 stations. Brown's Oakland-based talk show will run from 4-6 p.m., with a live audience. Sister Kathleen *needed this like a hole in her head*, particularly when the unpredictable Jerry starts taking shots at President Bill Clinton --- a la Rush. Next thing you know, Kathleen's Demo rival for governor, John Garamendi, will demand Kathleen take a pledge to support President Clinton in 1996. That might provide some fun, since Jerry has already said he'll challenge Bill Clinton...

- **Are Gun Law Enforced?** - CA has numerous laws on the books that enhance penalties for using a gun in various types of crimes. Yet some stats CALPEEK uncovered at the Calif. Dept. of Justice suggest that perhaps the guns laws aren't being enforced by various county DAs. In 4 categories of violations for 1992, there were only about 5,800 convictions for gun law offenses. Yet think of the all the armed robberies, drive-by shootings, murders and drug activities where guns are used. Even if these stats are doubled, the number of convictions would still be low. Why? CALPEEK sources suggest that DAs are **plea bargaining** away gun law violations in order to obtain convictions on the main crime. It's only in major homicides and strong armed robberies where the gun violation charges aren't dropped. FYI: Santa Clara Co. DA George

Kennedy is the exception among DAs. Sources report Kennedy actually goes overboard in enforcing gun law violations. He's even got AG Dan Lungren on his case...

- **Ticking \$4 Billion Unitary Tax Bomb** - The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a challenge to CA's unitary tax law. Without getting into all the details, if the court were to rule in favor of UK-owned Barclays Bank, Calif. taxpayers could be out as much as \$4 billion. The Clinton Admin. is working on a brief in favor of CA's stand, thanks to behind-the-scenes work by CA BoE Chair Brad Sherman(D). Stay tuned...

1994: UPDATE ON RUN FOR STATEWIDE OFFICES

Editor's note: Here are a few items of interest regarding the 1994 June primary...

- **Controller** - On the GOP side, former Assemblyman Tom McClintock will has a substantial challenge from L.A. businessman John Morris, who has hired consultant Ron Smith. Smith tells CALPEEK that Morris will raise a \$2 million war chest. In addition to Smith, Morris has hired fundraising consultants Karen Keane and Kimberly Peters, as well as The Stonecreek Group for opposition research. A formal announcement will take place the 1st week in February. Smith views the primary as a battle between a businessman (Morris) and a politician (McClintock). McClintock has a reputation as being somewhat of a loose canon who doesn't support nor like Gov. Pete Wilson...

...On the Demo side, sources confirm that Assemblyman Rusty Areias has reorganized his fundraising team, with Charlie Sena being moved from finance director to head of fundraising operations in the L.A. area. Replacing Sena as finance director is Suone Cotner, who worked for both U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer and former L.A. Councilman Mike Woo...

- **Secretary of State** - Demo Assemblywoman Gwen Moore of L.A. was to have made a formal announcement on Jan. 18, but the big Northridge earthquake has cause her to delay that event until later this month. Moore's district office was wiped out by the quake, as water sprinklers broke and flooded her office...

- **U.S. Senate** - Former GOP Congressman Bill Dannemeyer of Fullerton has throw another sink bomb

at GOP rival, U.S. Rep. Michael Huffington of Santa Barbara. In a Jan. 10th letter to MH, Dannemeyer says, "Based on your short voting record, I have a question for you. Why don't you re-register as a Democrat?" In his letter to MH, Dannemeyer cites a number of votes where Huffington voted with the Demo majority. Stay tuned...

YAROSLAVSKY TO DISCUSS POLITICAL CHANGE.

L.A. Councilman & candidate for county supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky will discuss "The Changing Political Dynamics in L.A." when he addresses the L.A. Public Affairs Officers Assn., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Jan. 24, Biltmore Hotel (Athenian Room), L.A. For info and RSVPs, call Karen Legier at (213)486-1931...

L.A. CHAMBER SPONSORS CRIME FORUM JAN. 26.

The overall impact of crime on the business community will be discussed at a special luncheon forum, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m., Jan. 26, sponsored by the L.A. Chamber of Commerce at the chamber's main downtown office. For info, Susan Pasternak (213)629-0650...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: GANN PUSHES TAXPAYERS CONSENT ACT, BUT TIME IS SHORT TO QUALIFY.....

Editor's note: Although it's not back from the AG's office just yet, anti-tax crusader Richard Gann has an idea that may sound very attractive to voters. Here's an update along with two other measures that have been given the OK to begin collecting signatures...

- Gann is hopeful that his **Taxpayers Consent Act** initiative will be returned from the Attorney General's office with Title & Summary by the first week in February. That would give Gann's Spirit of 13 Cmt. about 10 weeks to collect more than a million names. The initiative seems to focus most heavily on three areas where Gann says there is *massive abuse* by government: 1) the 5,000 special districts with taxing authority; 2) the huge \$35 billion in local debt; and 3) the ability of local government to impose taxes without a vote of the people...

...The proposal also makes it very clear as to when a tax or fundraising measure requires a simple majority vote or a super majority vote (2/3rds)...

...Gann says his committee has been working on this measure for nearly 18 months. Some 500,000 letters

recently were mailed, informing supporters about the upcoming drive. Gann won't say what kind of war-chest he's working with, but to send out that kind of mail requires substantial dollars. We'll keep you posted as to when it hits the streets...

- "**Casino Gambling**," is the official title of a constitutional amendment by Robert Wilson and John Brown (805)983-2238. If approved, this measure would create an experimental casino gaming project for the City of Adelanto. The official deadline is June 1st and proponents need 615,958 signatures...

- "**Marijuana**" is the official title of a statute that was originally given the okay to begin circulation on Dec. 20th, but had to be re-written to comply with a court-ordered change. The official deadline is now June 2nd. For info call Jack Herer or Christopher P.M. Conrad at (818)377-5787...

COUNTY SUPES RACES: MORE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here is the 2nd in a series of stories about CA County Supervisor races taking place in June & November. As reported last week, a number of incumbent supes are NOT seeking reelection in 1994...

- **Kern** - Two incumbents, Ben Austin and Pauline Larwood, both longtime supervisorial vets, are not seeking reelection. Although filing is not yet open, Deputy Sheriff Steve Perez and aviator Dick Rutan, who ran for congress against U.S. Rep. George Brown in 1992, are running for Austin's seat. Running for Larwood's post are Bakersfield Councilwoman Conni Brunni and 7 others, including former teacher & KKK member Don Heath and former planning commissioner Barbara Patrick...

- **Santa Clara** - Long time veteran Rod J. Diridon is prohibited from law from seeking another term (local term limit law in Santa Clara) and so the odds on favorite to succeed him is popular San Jose Councilman Jim Beale. Beale will have some competition from Santa Clara Mayor Eddie Souza. The other seat that's up belongs to Sup. Michael Honda, who is described by some CALPEEK sources as being vulnerable. However, at this point it doesn't appear that there are any serious challengers --- especially since San Jose Councilman Joe Head decided not to run...

● **San Bernardino** - Supes Jon Mikels & Larry Walker are both seeking reelection. Mikels has yet to draw a serious opponent, but Walker will have to contend with popular Montclair Mayor Larry Rhinehart, who has retained veteran consultant Steve Presson to manage his campaign. Walker is seeking a 3rd term and thus may be vulnerable --- especially if voters are in a mood for change. Rhinehart is up for reelection in November...

● **Contra Costa** - The big news here is that long time Sup. Sunne Wright McPeak has announced her resignation, effective Mar. 31. She was up for reelection this year. Sources say she'll take a job with the Bay Area Economic Forum. Gov. Wilson will get to make an appointment. The leading contenders are Concord Mayor Mark DeSaulnier, Pleasant Hills Councilwoman Sherry Sherrett and former hospital board member and 1990 McPeak opponent Grace Ellis. All are GOPers. Ellis & DeSaulnier have pledged not to run if either is appointed, but Sherrett won't take that pledge. And odds are high that no matter who is appointed, Concord Councilwoman Colleen Coll will be on the June ballot. She's a Demo. Why did McPeak call it a career? Sources say frustration over funding of vital county services had a lot to do with her decision...

● **Los Angeles** - While most of the political gossip has centered on retiring Sup. Ed Edelman, Sup. Gloria Molina must also face voters in 1994. At this point, she doesn't have a serious opponent and is not expected to draw one. It would be a suicide run against the popular incumbent. As for the Edelman seat, nothing much new to report. L.A. Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky continues to be the slam dunk frontrunner. Edelman deputy Don Wallace, a former county fire captain, is running, but is not in the same league with Zev. Still looking is businessman Nick Patsaouras...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● So. Calif. Edison has done some PA reorganizing, with Robert G. Foster moving to the L.A. area from Sacto, where he'll assume the title of corporate vp of PA. In Sacto, David Takashima, who used to work for State Sen. Steve Peace, has been named director of PA. And Tommy Ross has returned to SCE's Sacto office as manager of govt. affairs...

● L.A. based Afriat/Blackstone Consultants has been hired to manage the campaign of MeraLee Goldman for Beverly Hills City Council...

● Raquelle de la Rocha has been appointed to the FPPC by State Controller Gray Davis. Ms. de la Rocha is a lecturer & instructor at the UCLA Law School. She is the first Latina to be appointed to the FPPC...

● Ralph Camona has left his job as VP with Bank of America to become Director of PA & economic development with the Sacto Municipal Utility District (SMUD)...

● L.A. based Cerrell Associates, Inc., has hired Michael John Bustamante as a Sr. AE. He was with the L.A. Co. MTA prior to joining Cerrell Assoc. The firm also announced the promotion of Greg H. Fant to Asst. AE...

● ARCO's George Ross is the 1994 chair of the L.A. Public Affairs Officers Assn...

● Printing & direct mail pro Vince Monaco has formed The Monaco Group, 1742 N. Case Street, Orange, CA 92665. (714)283-7120...

CALPEEK's '94 CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON SALE

CALPEEK's 1994 Directory of Campaign Consultants is now for sale to subscribers and non-subscribers alike. Cost for CALPEEK subscribers is just \$10, while the cost to non-subscribers is \$40. The directory will be given away FREE with all new subscriptions. No invoicing, no credit cards - checks only. For info call (310)659-0205. This directory is sold via subscription only. No retail sales. Stay tuned...

NELSON TO DISCUSS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

Former INS Comm. Alan C. Nelson, who is co-author of an initiative cracking down on illegal immigration, will speak to the Commonwealth Club of CA, 11:45 a.m., Jan. 28, Sheraton Hotel, S.F. Nelson's speech is called, "Illegal Immigration: Politics vs. Reality." For info (415)597-6705...